

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09465 221539Z

47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 CU-04 OMB-01 /071 W
----- 075989

R 221425Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0399
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 9465

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EG

SUBJECT: MILITARY TECHNICAL COLLEGE TRIAL ADJOURNED

REF: CAIRO 2416 (NOTAL)

1. SUPREME STATE SECURITY COURT CONVENED NOVEMBER 16 TO HEAR CASE OF 92 ADULT DEFENDANTS CHARGED WITH ATTACKING MILITARY TECHNICAL COLLEGE IN CAIRO LAST APRIL 18 (REFTEL). ALL DEFENDANTS WERE PRESENT EXCEPT FOR A SINGLE MEDICAL STUDENT WHO HAD BEEN EXCUSED FROM ATTENDANCE TO SIT FOR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS OF HEARING, BILL OF INDICTMENT WAS READ, SEVERAL OF THE DEFENSE COUNSELS SPOKE BRIEFLY, AND THEN COURT ADJOURNED UNTIL DECEMBER 14.

2. A RELIABLE EGYPTIAN JOURNALIST WHO WAS PRESENT IN COURT TOLD US PROCEEDINGS HAD TO BE SEEN TO BE BELIEVED. VIRTUALLY EVERY DEFENDANT WAS BEARDED AND GARBED IN WHITE ROBES. ALL CLUTCHED QURANS WHICH THEY BRANDISHED FROM TIME TO TIME LIKE WEAPONS. THROUGHOUT THE DAY, THE ACCUSED HUDDLED AROUND ALLEGED RINGLEADER, SALIH ABDALLAH SARIYYA, KISSING HIS HAND AND GENERALLY TREATING HIM LIKE A MAHDI INCARNATE. AT NOON, TO STUPEFACTION OF GALLERY AND COURT, SARYIYA BEGAN TO CHANT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CAIRO 09465 221539Z

THE CALL TO PRAYER, AND ALL FACED EAST (TOWARD THE WALL) TO

PRAY. WITH 91 CROWDED IN THE DOCK, THIS WAS QUITE AN ATHLETIC FEAT.

3. PERHAPS MOST NOTEWORTHY FEATURE OF WHOLE HEARING WAS EMINENT GOOD JUDGMENT AND FAIRNESS DISPLAYED BY THE MAGISTRATE. AT ONE POINT, FOR EXAMPLE, ONE OF THE DEFENDENTS DEMANDED, AND WAS GRANTED, THE RIGHT TO READ A PAPER HE HAD ATTACHED TO HIS QURAN. ACCORDING TO THIS DOCUMENT, NEITHER THE COURT NOR THE "RULER" (I.E., SADAT) IS "LEGITIMATE", AND DEFENDANTS ARE GUILTY OF NOTHING EXCEPT BEING MUSLIMS. ANOTHER PRISONER SHOUTED DEMANDS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS, ALLEGED SOME OF GROUP HAD BEEN TORTURED IN PRISON, AND CALLED ON SADAT TO APPEAR AS A WITNESS.

4. IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE NASSER YEARS, MAGISTRATE'S REACTION WAS LENIENT TO THE EXTREME. HE APPOINTED PANEL OF PHYSICIANS TO EXAMINE THE SIX ALLEGEDLY TORTURED PRISONERS AND GRANTED DEFENSE COUNSELS' MOTIONS FOR PERMISSION TO CONFER IN PRIVATE WITH THEIR CLIENTS WHILE PREPARING THEIR CASES (DOSSIER IS 5000 PAGES LONG).

5. COMMENT: OVERALL RESULT OF THIS PREMINARY HEARING, OTHER THAT ITS NOT INCONSIDERABLE ENTERTAINMENT VALUE FOR CAIRENES (WHO ARE ALREADY COMPILING NEW SET OF EGYPTIAN JOKES ABOUT SEVENTH CENTURY BEHAVIOR OF DEFENDANTS), WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE A PUBLIC RELATIONS COUP FOR PRESIDENT SADAT. WHEN 92 MEN CHARGED WITH TREASON CAN RECEIVE PUNCTILIOUS JUSTICE FROM A SECURITY COURT, THE GENUINENESS OF THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL "OPEN DOOR" CAN SCARCELY BE DEBATED.
EILTS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRIALS, STUDENTS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAIRO09465
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740339-0439
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741121/aaaaarnu.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CAIRO 2416 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2002 by chicheje>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY TECHNICAL COLLEGE TRIAL ADJOURNED
TAGS: PINT, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005